

ALTON CASTLE:

Year 5 Residential Retreat

WEDNESDAY 14TH
OCTOBER → FRIDAY 16TH
OCTOBER 2026



Retreats at Alton Castle

Residential (2-Night) Retreats (Ages 9-14):

These retreats are designed for young people in Year 5 to Year 9, offering a two-night stay at Alton Castle. The programs are crafted to inspire personal growth, teamwork, and spiritual development.

A NEO-GOTHIC MARVEL

The castle itself is a remarkable Grade II listed neo-Gothic building designed by A.W. Pugin and constructed in 1847. It stands within the evocative ruins of a medieval castle dating back to approximately 1176, now designated as a Grade I listed scheduled ancient monument.



What is a Residential Retreat at Alton Castle?

- "Our retreat programmes combine teaching young people more about their faith, spending time in prayer, meditation and reflections, with outdoor adventurous activities. Ride out into the valley on one of our mountain bikes, trek out into the countryside, or scale our climbing wall, all whilst exploring and deepening your faith."
- "Our residential retreats are unique in the way the experience of creation, and times of community prayer, are woven through challenging activities. Retreatants are pushed to trust in each other, to work together, and to conquer challenges as they encounter Christ in each other and in the activities they take part in."

Nestled atop the Churnet Valley, Alton Castle boasts a breathtaking natural setting. This picturesque environment allows the young people who visit us to experience the wonder of God's creation and the beauty of the world we all inhabit. Through outings into the countryside and other outdoor activities, they have the opportunity to encounter Christ through His magnificent creation.

God's Creation:

The Site





View of the archery field



The discovery centre where climbing is run

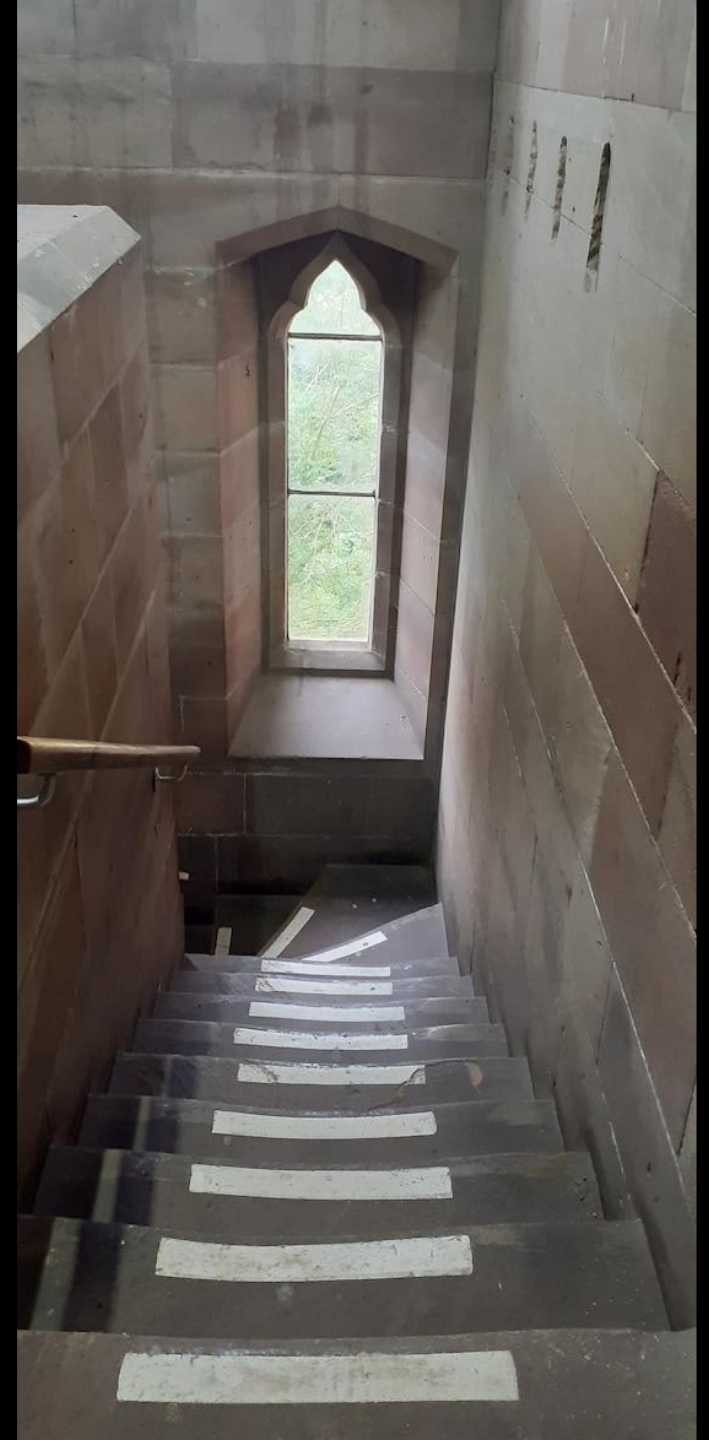
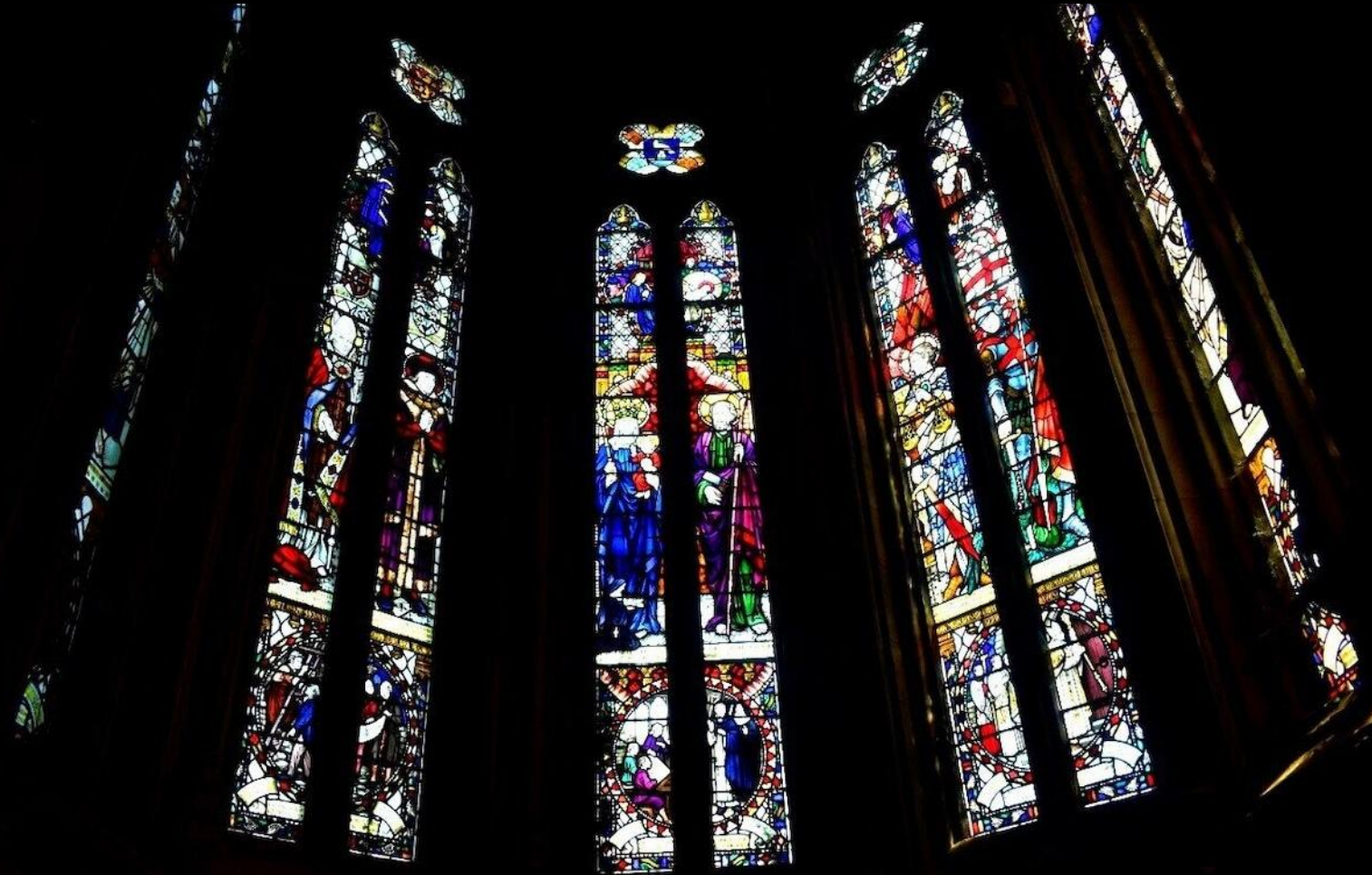


Ruins of the second castle





Inside the Castle





A typical dorm



Challenging Activities:

Our residential retreats are distinctive in their approach. We weave the experience of creation and community prayer into challenging activities.

These activities encourage retreatants to place trust in one another, work collaboratively, and overcome obstacles. In this process, they not only bond with their peers but also encounter Christ through each other and the activities they engage in.

Activities



What does my child need to pack?

YOU WILL NEED:

- ☐ Sleeping bag
- ☐ Personal toiletries (including toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, etc.)
- ☐ Pair of pjamas
- ☐ Money for tuck shop (recommended £10)
- ☐ Towel
- ☐ Sun cream
- ☐ Sun hat (summer retreats)/woolly hat, scarf and gloves (winter retreats)
- ☐ 4 t-shirts (at least 1 long sleeved top)
- ☐ 3 pairs of loose fitting trousers (leggings or joggers)
- ☐ 2 warm long-sleeved jumpers
- ☐ 1 thick fleece/jacket

- ☐ 1 waterproof coat
- ☐ Waterproof trouser (if possible)
- ☐ 2 pairs of walking socks
- ☐ Pair of wellies or walking boots (there are some wellies available to borrow if necessary)
- ☐ 5 pairs of underwear
- ☐ 1 pair of old trainers (to be worn outside - they will get muddy)
- ☐ 1 pair of indoor shoes (not slippers - trainers are ideal)
- ☐ Water bottle
- ☐ Torch (optional)

PLEASE NOTE:

We advise that personal electronics are not brought on retreat - all electronics are brought at owners' risk. Electronics, such as hairdryers and straighteners, cannot be used on retreat. Each visitor will have to carry their bag to their room - this may involve walking up many flights of stairs so please pack a bag that you can carry.

A packed lunch for the first day – preferably in a disposable bag

A typical timetable

DAY 1

11:00am Early Start Arrivals
*Welcome meeting,
introductions*

12:30pm Packed Lunch

**1:15pm AFTERNOON
ACTIVITY**

4:00pm Move in and rest

**4:00pm Non-Early Start
Arrivals**

4:10pm Move In
Young people move to their
rooms and settle in (shown fire
escapes, toilets/showers and
welly room)

4:45 Welcome Meeting
Meet in the main space

5:30pm Dinner

Meet at 5:25pm in Earth Room
corridor

6:15pm Free Time

Please supervise spaces

6:45pm Fire Drill

7:00pm 1st Evening Activities

9:00pm Night Drinks

Meet in the Dining Room

9:15pm Night Prayer

9:30pm Bedtime

DAY 2

8:30am Breakfast

Meet in the Earth Room
corridor at 8:25am

9:00am Morning Prayer

Meet in main space

9:30am FIRST ACTIVITY

12:30pm Lunch

Meet in the Earth Room
corridor at 12:25pm

1:10pm Free Time (Tuck Shop Open)

Please supervise spaces

1:30pm SECOND ACTIVITY

Meet in main space at 1:25pm

4:00pm Shower Hour

A chance to get clean and
showered

**5:05pm Readers, offertory
and altar servers head to
church to practice**

5:30pm Dinner

Meet at 5:25pm in Earth Room
corridor

6:30pm Music Practice

Meet in main space at 6:25pm

7:15pm Celebration of Mass

Walk across to church
together.

8:20pm Entertainments

9:10pm Night Prayer

9:30pm Bedtime

Night drinks available on the
way to bed.

DAY 3

8:30am Breakfast

Meet in the Earth Room corridor at 8:25am.

Before breakfast, all bags and bedding must be removed from bedrooms and put in designated space

9:00am Morning Prayer

Meet in main space

9:30am THIRD ACTIVITY

12:30pm Lunch

Meet in the Earth Room corridor at 12:25pm

1:00pm Teachers' Evaluation

Teachers' evaluation will take place in staff room

1:10pm Free Time (Tuck Shop Open)

1:30pm Thank You Service

Meet in main space at 1:25pm

2:00pm Goodbyes

Thanks for visiting! We hope you have a safe journey home!

Back to school around 3:30pm

What will we be eating?

- Breakfast – range of cereals, toast, beans, fruit, juice
- Lunch – sandwiches, chips, fruit
- Dinner – range of different meals, different options available: we will always find something for them to eat

Contact me if you need to tell me about anything specific about your child's eating habits (that school are not already aware of)

Any questions?

Alton Castle provides a unique and enriching environment where young people can explore their faith, deepen their relationship with God, and develop strong connections with their peers. Through prayer, nature, and team-building experiences, we aim to create truly transformative and unforgettable retreats.



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